February • March 1989

GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

P.O. BOX 574 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901 PHONE (719) 471-4429

THE STATE OF THE CENTER UPDATE

On January 24 the Pikes Peak Gay Community Center Board of Directors held an open Executive Board meeting. At that time Board members and interested members of the community reviewed the Center's status.

It became clear that at this time the Colorado Springs gay/lesbian community does not want a physical location for their Center. When the current location was first established the Board, through GAYSPEAK, was very clear in saying that though the Board members felt the need for a physical location--it was up to the Community to support a location with their energy and money.

In the July 1988 issue, page one, we said "We need you, we need your time and your help...but more than that we need to know that a Center is what you need....If the Community agrees with us and feels the need to have this and/or a better place, then we will continue to grow and be a vital, viable option for everyone....If we are not supported by the Community we will leave [the space] and there will not be a Center. It is that simple."

At first the Center space was well used but that is not the case at this time. There is no money to pay the rent. We have submitted our notice to the landlords.

In other business the need to stay solvent forced the Board to cash in the Certificate of Deposit. This will allow us to pay the phone bills and other debts.

The Board and those other community representatives who were present reiterated their commitment to PPGCC and felt that these changes are a positive new beginning.

In keeping with that attitude the Board made it clear that it is extremely important that the HELPLINE continue to function. Both the HELPLINE and GAYSPEAK are seen as the most consistent means of communication between all of us in the gay community and as such MUST continue.

The HELPLINE coordinator reported that the HELPLINE is undergoing some organizational changes which they see as very positive. The most important change is that they are forming their own Board and will have representatives from community groups and organizations as part of that Board. The Line will continue to have a representative at PPGCC Board meetings this new internal organization will not affect the HELPLINE's relationship with PPGCC, but it WILL help them help themselves.

One of the most important functions of this group will be to raise funds to cover HELPLINE expenses (phone bill etc.). In an effort to make sure the HELPLINE continues the PPGCC Board voted to give the Line an interest free loan of $300.00, this will ensure them that the Line will continue to exist for at least the next 7 months.

We encourage all of you to attend the next meeting of the Pikes Peak Gay Community Center Board of Directors. The meeting is scheduled for 7p.m., February 21 at Community Center.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE FORMED

PPGCC President, Ed Sells and PPGCC Treasurer Tim Sanders are co-chairs for the PPGCC fund raising committee.

In keeping with the newly defined "statement of purpose" (see article) the funds raised by this committee will be used for a broad range of needs.

Those needs will be determined for each fund raiser so that you will know what your money will be used for.

This group needs your help--not only to help them put together events, but also to come up with suggestions for who needs the money

At this point the Board and the Committee are planning to raise funds to pay bills, to help people with AIDS, to sponsor "free" events for the Community (especially during Pride Week), etc.

If you have any suggestions please contact one of the co-chairs or come to a Board meeting.

LOVE OFFERINGS:

Christopher Isherwood dedicated several of his books--including "Christopher and His Kind" and "Down There on a Visit"--to his lover of over 30 years, artist Don Bachardy. Bachardy, in turn, often provided affectionate drawings of Isherwood for the books' covers.

English composer Benjamin Britten wrote all of his major tenor roles, and most of his solo vocal works, specifically for his lover, tenor Peter Pears. The operas include "Peter Grimes," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Billy Budd," and "Death in Venice."

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KOWALSKI CASE MAY HAVE SUFFERED SET-BACK

MINNEAPOLIS--Advocates for disabled Sharon Kowalski were dismayed to learn that District Judge Robert Campbell granted Donald Kowalski (her father) 14 days to prepare an appeal to the December ruling ordering Sharon moved to "an appropriate rehabilitation facility...capable of working with brain-damaged people."

That December decision was seen as a victory for Karen Thompson, Kowalski's lover, who has been prevented from seeing Kowalski since Donald Kowalski was awarded custody in 1983. Thompson said the earlier decision moved her closer to reunification with her lover, who was severely injured in an auto accident in 1983.

Thompson told the "Gay Community News, Boston" that she is disappointed with the judge's most recent decision to allow an appeal. "Sharon should receive therapy without delay," Thompson said. "It's but another example showing that Donald Kowalski does not have Sharon's best interest in mind. How can he possibly justify her not getting rehabilitation?"

The original December decision was based on testimony submitted by three court appointed doctors who indicated that Sharon is able to express her wishes and should receive better rehab therapy.
(Info from GCN 1/89)

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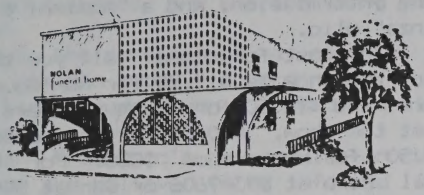

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VALENTINES DAY: IN THE BEGINNING

(TAKEN FROM THE SOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1989)

The Ides of February was the original Valentine's Day (called Lupercalia by the Romans). This was the sacred day of the Goddess Juno and gave all participants sexual license to love whoever and wherever they pleased in celebration of love.

The women and men would choose their sexual partners by means of a "billet" or love note. This is what we now call a "Valentine."

Although the church tried to abolish this custom, the people would not hear of it and it went on as before. The clergy tried to substitute religious sermons on the billets rather than the love poems, and the people renounced that also.

The gnostic Valentinians retained the sexual license of the festival but tried to make people believe that it had religious overtones and claimed to be re-enacting the nuptial rites of "Sophia and the Redeemer."

After the suppression of the gnostics, the Orthodox Church invented a Saint Valentine, who was given the distinction of being the patron of lovers (although there were many conflicting things written about him). The custom of drawing lots to determine ones future spouse was carried out until the end of the 18th Century in England.

VALENTINES DAY BRINGS THOUGHTS OF LOVE

FAMOUS GAY AND LESBIAN LOVES, HOW OLD THEY WERE WHEN THEY MET AND HOW LONG THEY WERE TOGETHER:

Romaine Brooks (41) and Natalie Barney (39)--together 53 years;
Peter Pears (26) and Benjamin Britten (23)--together 40 years;
Gertrude Stein (33) and Alice B. Toklas (30)--together 39 years;
W. Sommerset Maugham (40) and Gerald Haxton (22)--together 29 years;
Walt Whitman (46) and Peter Doyle (18)--together 8 years.

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BOULDER--Since the Yard of Ale opened its doors on February 19, 1988, it has given over $4000.00 in goods and services to our community. (THE BAR RAG, 1/89)

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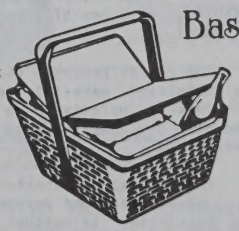

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Copy and inquiries may be sent to GAYSPEAK, p.o. box 574, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

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The Newsletter is distributed by advertisers as well as through annual membership in PPGCC.

EDITOR/NEWS Michelle Abdill

ADVERTISING
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YOU ARE INVITED TO A GAY NIGHT OF GOOD FOOD AND GREAT FUN

The Imperial Court of Southern Colorado (ICSC) and the Iron Springs Chateau are co-sponsoring the annual Gay Night at the Chateau, March 4. Cocktails at 6p.m., dinner at 7p.m. and the show is set for 8:30p.m.

This very popular event includes the melodrama "Wedded to a Villain", a sing-a-long intermission, and a "musical extravaganza" olio.

The cost for dinner (all you can eat) and the show is $19.50 for non-Court members and $18.50 for Court members. For just the show, $10.50 for non-members and $9.50 for members of ICSC. For tickets call Barb at 593-9606 or Dan at 594-0279. (ED. NOTE: We encourage everyone in the community to make their reservations early. This is a great time for everyone!)

PROTESTERS CLOSE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

About 80 demonstrators demanding more commitment to stopping AIDS closed the Golden Gate Bridge during morning rush hour on Tuesday, January 31, 1989. Thousands of commuters were stopped during the protest.

The fog-shrouded bridge was closed for 46 minutes while Highway Patrol officers arrested 26 protesters affiliated with a group called "Stop AIDS Now Or Else." The demonstrators were cited on charges of trespassing and creating a public nuisance and then released.

A spokeswoman for the group said they chose the bridge for the protest because it would be "the most disruptive to people."

"AIDS is disrupting our lives and until people's lives are disrupted they don't pay attention," said Darla Rucker, spokeswoman for the group of AIDS victims and friends of AIDS patients. (GT 2/89)

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AIDS TAKING TOLL ON SAN FRANCISCO ECONOMY

SAN FRANCISCO--Beyond the tragedy of lost lives, AIDS is exacting a great toll on the local economy.

The epidemic is leaching money and talent from corporations and corner stores.

Like the number of cases in San Francisco--more than 5,500 today, a projected 17,000 in five years--the toll rises steadily.

Bankruptcies are soaring among young gay men.

But the most damage may also be the least visible today, according to urban consultant Claude Gruen: loss of quality workers.

San Francisco's gay population--half of whom are believed to be infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS--is estimated at 42,000 to 70,000 up to 19 percent of San Francisco's resident work force.

More than half are in their 30's, with college degrees, earning $25,000 or more a year, according to surveys by the research firm, Communications Technologies.

For every person with AIDS who dies, there is a loss of $500,000 in lifetime earnings, says Palo Alto, CA, economist Ann Scitovsky. She predicts that medical bills will amount to $8.5 billion nationwide by 1991. (GT 1/89)

CHICAGO APPROVES GAY RIGHTS BILL

CHICAGO--In the midst of a fiery mayoral campaign, the City Council Dec. 21 voted 28 to 17 to approve a gay rights ordinance. The bill had gone down to defeat for 14 consecutive years.

The bill adds sexual orientation to the Chicago human rights ordinance which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion and ethnicity. The bill provides for penalties of $100 to $500 a day for violating the bill's anti-discrimination provisions. (GCN--C. Bull,1/89)

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$913,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON--The U.S. Conference of Mayors announced the award of $913,000 in grants to 23 community-based AIDS education groups around the country. Since its inception in 1983, the Conference's AIDS Prevention Program has awarded $2.5 million in grants to 88 organizations, using funds provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Groups awarded grants this year include: the Austin Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization (ALLGO), Stop AIDS Chicago, the PWA coalition of Dallas, Migrant Family Health Services in North Carolina, Black and White Men Together (BWMT), of Los Angeles, and the Asian AIDS Project of San Francisco. (info from GCN, 1/89)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAMBDA LIONS CLUB: TOWARD THE 21ST CENTURY

"Toward the 21st Century: The Future: The Challenge to Lionism" was the theme introduced at the International Association of Lions Clubs' annual convention in Denver last summer. As a result of that convention a charter will be issued for the Rocky Mountain Lambda Lions Club (Denver), on February 25, 1989.

This organization is a group of gay men and women dedicated to community service and fellowship. The club represents a diverse cross-section of individuals from the business, trade, service and professional areas.

They are currently soliciting members who can become Charter Members with the group on that night. The groups says, "We are committed to service in Rocky Mountain Region gay communities as well as active involvement in local, regional, and international Lions programs.

For more information call Cindy Vigil (303)289-6391, Michael McBride (303) 237-4252, or Bob Lundgren (303)322-2212.

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March 24

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GAY ILLINI ALUMNI ORGANIZE

The University of Illinois Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (GALA) is seeking to increase national membership. Alumni/ae from both the Champaign-Urbana and Chicago campuses are welcome. The GALA will offer social and professional networking, as well as information and support to current lesbian and gay students and staff on campus.

The Chicago chapter held a kickoff reception on National Coming Out Day. Other chapters are expected to form throughout the country as membership grows.

There is no membership fee, but contributions are encouraged. Alumni/ae wishing to join the mailing list should write: University of Illinois GALA, POB 53336, Washington DC 20009.

WORK TO MAINTAIN CIVIL RIGHTS WITH EPOC

EPOC or The Equal Protection Ordinance Coalition is a group in Denver that has been established to work towards obtaining, maintaining, and sustaining civil rights. For more information call: (303)830-2981 or write to EPOC, P.O.Box 4668, Denver, CO 80204.

HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTER, NGLTF ANNOUNCE REVISED AIDS POCKET CARD FOR POLICE OFFICERS

In response to reports of growing fear by law enforcement officials about contracting AIDS on the job, the Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC) has revised and updated a pocket-size card with concise information from medical experts, law enforcement officials, and community service providers.

The pocket card describes tasks that are commonly required of police officers and identifies the level of risk (if any) associated with these activities. Simple procedures to guard against infection are suggested for performing certain job activities that may present a health hazard. An accompanying training bulletin provides more information on AIDS and infection control measures.

AIDS pocket cards are available from the Human Rights Resource Center, 30 N. San Pedro Rd., Suite 140, San Rafael, CA 949903; (415)499-7465. Cards are $20.00 per hundred. Packets of sample police department AIDS policies and training are available from HRRC.

GRANTS AWARDED TO AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Robert W. Windom, MD, assistant secretary for health, today announced that five grants have been awarded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) under a new program designed to generate novel strategies for deciphering how the AIDS virus causes diseases.

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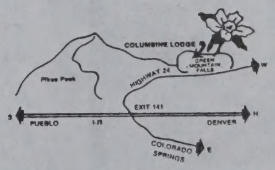

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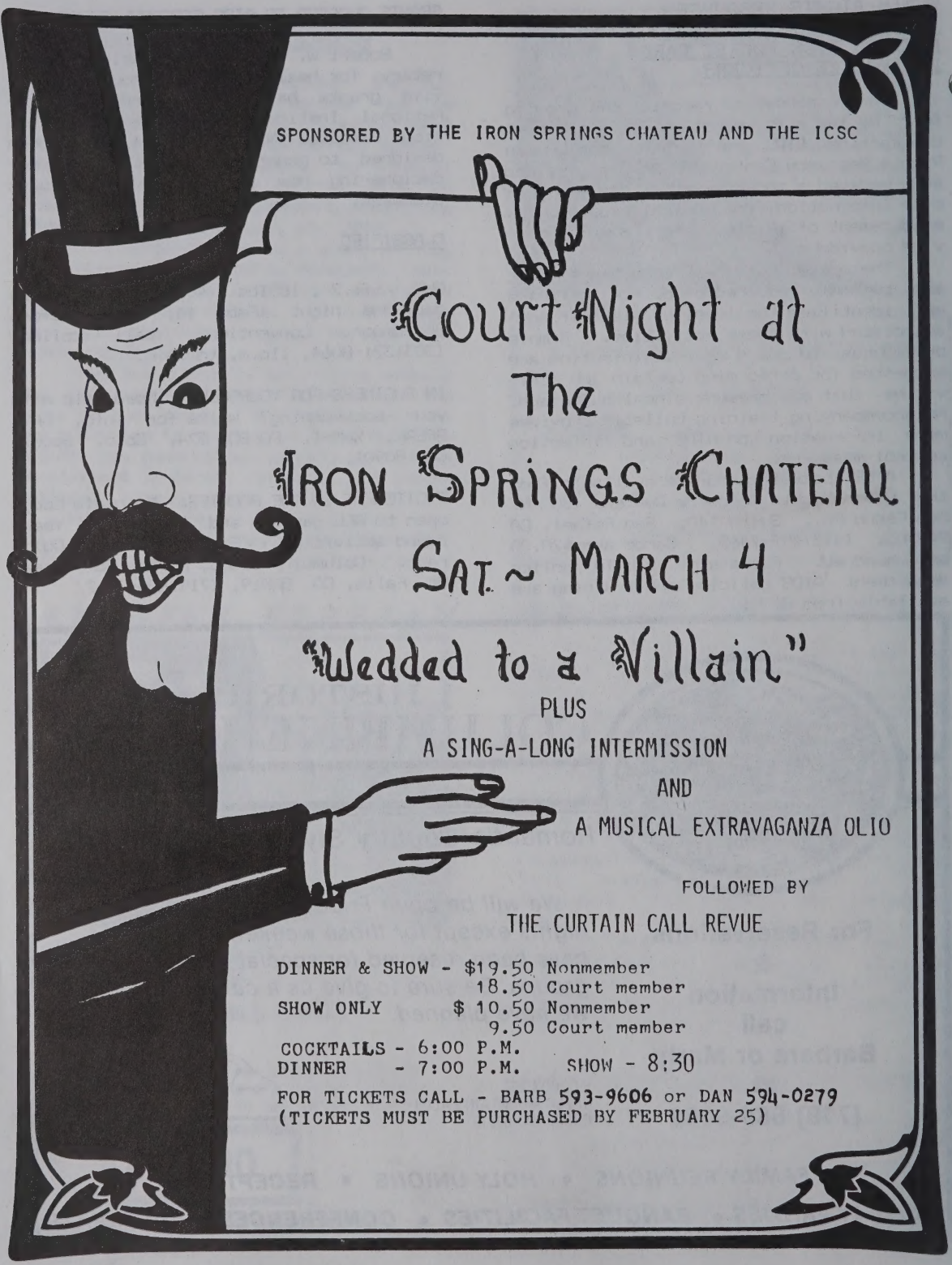

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